

Remarks

Claims 1, 2, 5, 7-9, 11-14 and 16-21 are pending; claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 14, 16, and 20 are rejected; and claims 8-9, 11-13, 17-19, and 21 are indicated allowable. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating the allowable claims.

Claims 1, 9, 11, 13, 16, and 18-20 are amended; claims 2, 8, 17, 21 are cancelled; and other claims remain unchanged.

Applicant disagrees that contact n of switch 43 in US6,034,737 ("Koyama") must be connected to one of the contacts k, l, and m of switch 43 when the power is not applied to the system. As admitted in the Office Action, switch 43 is an electronic switch and as pointed out at page 7, lines 21-22 of the present application, an electronic switch should not be able to connect an input to an output without operational power. This is well known in at least the TV industry. As such, the claims are patentable in light of the arguments provided in the response to the last Office Action.

However, in the interest of advancing the prosecution, applicant has amended independent claims 1, 16, 20 to respectively incorporate features from claims 8, 17, and 21. Since claims 8, 17, and 21 are indicated allowable, amended claims 1, 16, and 20, and respective dependent claims, are also allowable.

In view of the foregoing remarks/arguments, the Applicant believes this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's attorney at (609) 734-6813, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

Except the fee for filing the RCE, applicant believes that no other fee has been incurred by virtue of this amendment. However if another fee is incurred on the basis of this amendment, please also charge such fee against deposit account 07-0832

Respectfully submitted,

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